



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

PART	SUBJECT	RELEASE NUMBER
442 FW 3	Firearms and Use of Force	N/A
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT	Reporting and Boards of Review	DATE
Office of Law Enforcement		June 8, 2006

EXPLANATION OF MATERIAL TRANSMITTED:

This release rescinds 442 FW 3, Reporting and Boards of Review. Departmental guidance released on May 11, 2006 replaces the chapter.

Click here to link
to Departmental
Guidance.
(6 MB PDF file)


Acting
DIRECTOR

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

Remove:

442 FW 3, FWM 474, 11/22/05

Insert:

None



United States Department of the Interior


FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS/LE ADM 2-01

JUN 08 2006

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement
Assistant Director, National Wildlife Refuge System
Regional Directors, Region 1-7 and California/Nevada Operations Office (CNO) Manager
Acting
From: Director 
Subject: Convening and Conducting Boards of Review

The Board of Review (BOR) process provides important oversight for our activities as a law enforcement agency. The Department of the Interior has provided new guidance for conducting and convening these boards to ensure appropriate scrutiny of situations involving the safety of law enforcement officers and the public.

This memorandum adopts the guidance in the attached May 11, 2006 Departmental memorandum titled "Boards of Review and Serious Incident Review Groups Interim Policy" and establishes interim policy and procedures for convening and conducting BORs in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

This memorandum and the attached Departmental guidance replace the policy and procedures in Service Manual Chapter 442 FW 3 (Reporting and Boards of Review), which is hereby repealed. This interim policy applies to all Service officers.

This memorandum authorizes the Chief, Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) or the Assistant Director, National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) to convene a BOR to examine the use of force or discharge of a firearm by Service officers within their area of responsibility. The Board will consist of management and field personnel from the relevant program and be chaired by either a special agent from the OLE Branch of Training and Inspection or refuge officer from the NWRS Division of Refuge Law Enforcement, depending on whether the serious incident involves OLE or NWRS personnel. Members of the BOR will be selected in coordination with the Regional Director/CNO Manager in the Region/CNO where the Board is being conducted. The fact-finding investigation will be conducted by the Professional Responsibility Unit and its Report of Investigation will be forwarded to the Chief/OLE for distribution.

This delegation of dual responsibility is consistent with organizational changes that have occurred over the past several years and will allow the Service to fully implement the Department's policy. While the exercise of dual responsibilities and program-specific oversight is appropriate in many areas, we must also remember that the Service ultimately has one law enforcement mission. The OLE and NWRS must continue to work together and recognize that a strong cross-programmatic commitment to cooperation and partnership is essential to our success in protecting the Nation's wildlife resources and wildlife refuges.

Attachment

